C O N C O R D I A U N I V E R S I T Y

SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

M I N U T E S

(of SRC meeting held on Thursday, October 4, 1990
at 10:00 A.M., in Room BC-110, SGW campus)

ATTENDANCE -

Members present:	P. Albert, U. DeBrentani, E. Doedel, D. Ginter, D. Gold, M. Kusy,M. Lefebvre, J.N. Lightstone (Chair), S. Sankar, J. Segovia, M.N.S. Swamy, A. Williams, Nannette Plant (Secretary)
Absent with regrets:	C. Apostostolakos, K. Lipke, B. MacKay, G. Mergen

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED AND DISTRIBUTED TO SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

At Meeting:

SRC-90-10-4-D111 - 1989-90 SUMMARY OF RESEARCH GRANTS AND CONTRACTS AWARDED TO CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS (Aug. 2/90, Audrey J. Williams)

Dr. Jack N. Lightstone occupied the Chair.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 A.M.

1.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by the Committee.

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Chair stated that approval of the previous Minutes of Meeting (March 22, 1990) was still pending. The approval of both sets of minutes will be approved/amended at the next meeting.

3.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

3.1 Royal Society of Canada (RSC)

The Chair stated that two oral presentations were made to the RSC on May 3rd as scheduled. He noted that the reference made to differentiation among universities appears to now be a dead issue according to the Royal Canadian Society. It was only supported by only three institutions - McGill, U.B.C. and Toronto.

Dr. Segovia complimented the presentation made by Dr. Lightstone saying he had conveyed the ideas of the report very clearly.

Dr. Ginter noted that at the meeting on the following day the Université de Montréal brought up the aspect of differentiation and the subject was passed over very quickly.

Dean Swamy stated that the National Commission of Deans of Engineering also made a presentation. In their document they noted that due to the size of Canada we cannot afford to have a two-tier system. Dean Swamy will be providing a copy of the Commission's report for distribution to the SRC.

3.2 Senate Council for Academic Planning and Priorities (SCAPP)

The Chair submitted a response to the above mentioned Council's request for comments on the 1991-92 budget (SRC-90-04-20-D107). Only two members of the SRC, S. Sankar and J. Segovia, provided comments as requested (SRC-90-04-20-D106). Unfortunately, due to the limited time a meeting could not be scheduled with the required quorum.

4.0 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

4.1 Report of the Director of ORS

4.1.1 A.J. Williams handed out the document entitled "1989 Summary of Research Grants and Contracts Awarded to Concordia University Researchers" (SRC-90-10-04-D111). She noted that the total value of Research Grants and Contracts at year end was 15.4 million dollars, an increase of 24% over last years's funding.

4.1.2 The Networks of Centres of Excellence programs are operating smoothly. Funds have now been distributed to some of the Concordia research teams.

4.1.3 A number of personnel changes have occurred in the granting agencies:

SSHRC

Elaine Isabelle has been appointed **Director General of Programs** at SSHRC.

NSERC

Arthur May, the former President of NSERC has been appointed **President of Memorial University** in Newfoundland, effective September 1/90.

Dr. Peter Morand, former Vice-Rector of University Relations and Development at the University of Ottawa, has been named **President of NSERC.**

Janet Halliwell has left NSERC to become the **Director of the Science Council of Canada.** Her replacement will be appointed by Dr. Morand.

FCAR

Christine Querido has left FCAR to become the **President of the Conseil des Universités du Québec.** As of yet, no replacement has been announced.

4.1.4 The Industrial Liaison Office, which came into existence separate from UQAM as of June 1st, is in full operation with Roch Prud'Homme as Director. A number of joint university-industry meetings have taken place in the past months, i.e. SPAR, Oerlikon and a visit is planned to Northern Telecom later this month.

4.1.5 The first quarter research funding for 1990-91 is reported to be 8.7 million, slightly below the 8.9 million for the same period last year.

4.1.6 In response to D. Ginter's query AJW noted that there was no significant increase of decrease in the number of applicants applying to SSHRC this year. She also noted a concern that some of the applicants have not quite grasped the new SSHRC Research Programme (vs. project).

4.1.7 The Chair stated that last year's SSHRC results were very poor and reflect the serious financial difficulties the organization is facing. Although their budget has remained constant, last year SSHRC received 70% more applications than the previous year, dropping the success rate from 40% to 30%. Concordia's position, however, has remained constant at 2% below the national average.

Dr. Lightstone stated that it is only a matter of time before NSERC faces a similar crisis. FCAR already has financial difficulties. At the spring CREPUQ meeting for Vice-Rectors of Research, Ms. Querido announced that 80% of their funds had already been committed to on-going projects. Their budget will concentrate only on three programmes - Equipe, Centres and Nouveaux Chercheurs. The General Research Grants, Seminar and Actions Spontanées programmes have been cancelled/suspended.

The Chair stated that due to the current financial dilemma within the granting agencies emphasis will be placed on funding excellent researchers and that competition will grow increasingly fierce. A two prong strategy is required which increases the quality of our applications and at the same time finds methods to relieve the slack from the granting agencies.

4.2 <u>DEC</u>

The Chair stated that the DEC program is not functioning as originally set up. They have had Concordia's recommendations since mid May, however, no decisions have been made. The Chair has given DEC a two week deadline to settle this matter or it will be taken to a higher level. Due to the delayed action, it will be recommended that all projects submitted should be funded.

Dr. Doedel noted that due to the loss of time many researchers have already bought the equipment elsewhere at more economical prices.

The Chair stated that the pricing system would be another item to be discussed with DEC.

4.3 **FRDP**

Dr. Lightstone and Audrey J. Williams stated that approximately seventy-four applications were received with 2:1 ratio for seed vs. targeted grants. There is enough money to cover the operating side, however, as noted earlier the funds for equipment are minimal. Results of the competition will probably be delayed with announcement planned around mid-November.

The next competition will be scheduled for late Spring - sufficiently late so that the granting agencies results will be known and awards made prior to the fall deadlines. Provision will be made for new appointees to apply for funding.

The SRC Committee expressed concern over the FRDP procedures in place for assessing the applications. These procedures are at variance with those recommended by SRC (SRC-89-10-05-D78) and approved by Senate (SRC-90-04-20-D105). The issue was discussed at length. It was decided that the present competition should not be delayed, however, following completion of this exercise, the Faculty Councils and SRC will re-evaluate the procedures.

4.4 **Workshops for SSHRC and FCAR**

The Chair announced that the workshops were well attended. He emphasized the need for researchers to prepare their applications well in advance of the deadline dates. He proposed that workshops be held in the Spring next year in order to facilitate this process. He also noted that the Faculty Council's should encourage applicants and provide guidance. P. Albert has set up such a system in the Faculty of Arts and Science. D. Gold also noted that many applicants circulate their proposals within their department for comments. The Chair stated that one additional step which should be considered is the establishment of internal deadlines within the faculty/department.

5.0 Procedures for Senate Approval of Centres

The SRC (SRC 88-01-21-D36) approved the guidelines for Senate evaluation of University Research Centres. As a follow up to this document, SRC last year discussed a draft document intended as a procedural compliment to the Guidelines. As a result of consultations with the Vice-Rector, Academic a revised version of the procedures will be brought back to SRC.

6.0 Proposed Items for Discussion and Action for 1990-91

The Chair suggested that the following items be discussed this year at the SRC:

6.1 The development of a strategic plan for the enhancement of research, scholarship and creative activity at Concordia University;

6.2 monitoring, and making recommendations concerning, the operation of the Faculty Research Development Programme in light of the experience of the first round of the FRDP competition, which is currently underway;

6.3 discussion of the emerging financial difficulties in the SSHRC, NSERC and FCAR for the purpose not only of helping Concordia researchers effectively react to these new realities but also of formulating statements which might be useful to bodies and institutions lobbying on behalf of these agencies.

7.0 Varia

7.1 AUCC Stuart Smith Commission

The Chair notified the Committee of the recent notice of the Commission's scheduled meeting. Concordia has been asked to submit a statement to the Commission. The Chair will prepare a document for presentation.

The Chair noted that the AUCC's mandate is very vague. A meting with CREPUQ and the AUCC is scheduled for later this week to obtain more information.

7.2 The next Senate Research Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 25, at 10:00 A.M., in Room BC-110.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 A.M.